

Just Published,

A TRUE AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL

ACCOUNT

OF THE

TOTAL DEFEAT

OF THE

FRENCH FLEET

Off the Coast of Ireland, on the 12th
Inst. by Sir John Borlase Warren,

AND THE

Capture of one Ship of 84 Guns, and four
Frigates, after a most obstinate and bloody
Engagement, which lasted near five Hours,
in which the French had a great Number
of the Troops destined for the Invasion
of Ireland killed. Also the safe Arrival of
the Prizes, and the Number of Troops, &c.
on board.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

Some OBSERVATIONS on the Importance of
this glorious Victory, which has saved the
effusion of much Blood, and prevented the
renewal of Civil War in Ireland.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

NARRATIVE

OF THE

Defeat of the French Fleet.



THE important and pleasing intelligence of the defeat of the Brest fleet off the coast of Ireland, by the squadron under the command of Sir John Borlase Warren, is now confirmed by the arrival of Lieutenant Waterhouse, who brought the following letter, addressed to the Lords of the Admiralty, containing the particulars:

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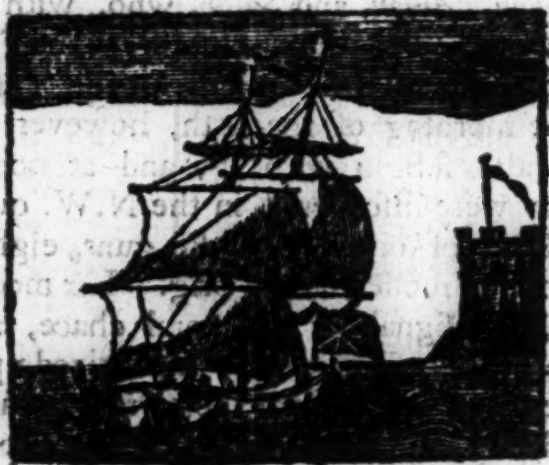
" Canada, Lough Swilly, Ireland, Oct. 16.

" In pursuance of the orders and instructions I received by the *Kangaroo*, I proceeded with the *Canada*, *Robust*, *Foudroyant*, and *Magnanime*, off Archill Head, and on the 10th inst. I was joined by the *Melampus* and *Doris*, the latter of whom I directed to look out for the enemy off Tory Island, and the Rosses: in the evening of the same day, the *Amelia* appeared in the Offing, when Captain Herbert informed me he had parted with the *Ethalion*, *Anson*, and *Sylph*, who, with great attention, had continued to observe the French Squadron since their sailing on the 17th ult. In the morning of the 11th, however, these ships also fell in with us, and at noon the enemy were discovered in the N.W. quarter, consisting of one ship of 80 guns, eight frigates, a schooner, and a brig. I immediately made the signal for a general chase, and to form in succession as each ship arrived up with the enemy, who, from their great distance to windward, and a hollow sea, it was impossible to come up with before the 12th.

" The chase was continued in very bad and boisterous weather all day of the 11th, and the following night, when at half past five A. M. they were seen at a little distance to

windward, the line of battle ship having lost her main-top-mast.

The enemy bore down and formed their line in close order upon the starboard tack, and from the length of the chace, and our ships being spread, it was impossible to close with them before seven A. M. when I made



the *Robust's* signal to lead, which was obeyed with much alacrity, and the rest of the ships to form in succession in the rear of the van.

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" The action commenced at twenty minutes past seven o'clock A. M. the *Rosses* bearing S. S. W. five leagues, and at eleven, the *Hoche*, after a gallant defence, struck; and the frigates made full sail from us; the signal to pursue the enemy was made immediately, and in five hours afterwards three of the frigates hauled down their colours also; but they, as well as the *Hoche*, were obstinately defended, all of them being heavy frigates, and, as well as the ship of the line, entirely new, full of troops and stores, with every necessary for the establishment of their views and plans in Ireland.

" I am happy to say, that the efforts of every officer and man in the squadron seemed to have been actuated by the same spirit, zeal, and unanimity in their king and country's cause; and I feel myself under great obligations to them, as well as to the officers and men of this ship, for their exertions upon this occasion, which will, I hope recommend them to their lordships favour.

" The ships with us in the action were, the *Canada*, *Robust*, *Foudroyant*, *Magnanime*, *Etbalion*, *Melampus*, and *Amelia*. The *Anson*

joined us in the latter part of the action, having lost her mizen-mast in chace the day before.

"I have sent my first lieutenant Turguand to take the command of the *Hocbe*.

"The enemy's ships had numbers of troops on board, arms, stores, and ammunition; and large quantities of papers were torn and thrown overboard after they had struck. I am of opinion that few of the frigates which escaped will arrive in France, as they had received much damage in their masts and rigging; and from the violent gales that followed the next day, they must be in a crippled state, and may in all probability be picked up by some of the squadrons on the coast of France, or by Admiral King'smill's cruizers.

"They had thrown every thing overboard, boats, spars, arm-chests, &c.

"I have the honour to remain, &c.

"J. B. WARREN."

On the 18th inst. the *Melampus* arrived off Lough Swilly with another French frigate in tow, in pursuit of which she had been sent.

The prizes are all safely arrived, three in Sligo Bay, and two in Lough Swilly.

The importance of this victory to this country, at the present moment, cannot be too highly estimated. The enemy had calculated a great deal upon the diversion they could make in Ireland against this country, and the Rebels were buoyed up with hopes of foreign aid. The failure of this attempt, therefore, must disincline the French to a similar project, and it will damp the expectation which the disaffected formed of foreign assistance.

A victory of more real utility to this nation cannot be conceived. It has saved the effusion of much blood which would have been shed had the expedition landed, and vast expence which would have been occasioned by the renewal of a civil war in Ireland.

There are many details to be expected of the action, as the official letters do not enter into the particulars of the loss on either side. That of the enemy must have been considerable, as three of our vessels were ships of the line, while the French had only one of this rank, and were besides encumbered with troops.

The number of troops on board, according to the French papers, was 3,600 men.

From the eagerness of Sir J. B. Warren to pursue the flying frigates, he never had any communication with any of the ships that had been engaged, and this accounts for his not speaking of the losses sustained on either side. However, it is with pleasure we state, that although the *Canada* was in the heat of the engagement the whole time, she neither had a man killed nor wounded, notwithstanding the troops on board the enemy's ships kept up a smart fire of musquetry during the action.

F I N I S.

